

Foreign Documents Division
SP-1078
28 February 1966

US SENATOR, CIA CRITICIZED

-- Havana, Granma, 25 Jan 66

[The following is from an article "The CIA in Trouble" by Sergio Aguirre.]

There is no greater blow for representative democracy than the activity of an indiscreet legislator. It always involves a politician interested in publicity and desirous of furthering his career. He succumbs to the temptation of saying what the masses have wanted someone to say. Instead of going against popular currents, which is the proper obligation of one who has already been elected, he thinks of a future election. He speaks out and compromises the government which cannot, out of respect for its principles, have him beaten by way of an answer. An example of all this is Eugene J. McCarthy, Democratic Senator from Minnesota. Without the least regard for the prestige of his office, this senator has requested that the Central Intelligence Agency be investigated by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

And at what a moment, Sir! And at what a moment! If it involved only the minutiae of the moment's routine! There would be no cause for surprise if everything were reduced today to half a dozen African "gorilazos" ["gorillas"] taken against the influence of France in the course of a very few weeks. They are routine acts governed by precaution which the CIA employs between yawns when it has little else to do. Neither can McCarthy be held responsible for the fact that world public opinion comments on the shooting of Juan Bosch's son. Trujillo officialdom, a happy trigger and other inspirations of the invisible government are easily explained taking into account the fact that the US, on sending its troops to Santo Domingo, limited itself to complying religiously with an OAS agreement. Even the US atomic bomb which disappeared in Palomares on the southern coast of Spain may be defended, asserting the inalienable right of any American B-52 to collide with another airplane. If 3 out of 4 atomic bombs which fall to earth with the airplane have not exploded and are located immediately, why worry? There were no Yankees below. Has it not been said that geographically and sociologically, Africa begins at the Pyrenees?

Evidently such trifles do not now permit the investigation, which Senator McCarthy requests, to be considered inopportune. Then there is the Ben Barka case. An assassination neatly carried out by means of a kidnaping would have constituted for the CIA a new motive for pride. But, what about this? It is necessary to recapitulate. Certainly El Mehdi Ben Barka, a staunch fighter against colonialism, neocolonialism, and imperialism, participated very actively in the organization of a tremendous barrage of ideological artillery against Washington, namely the first Tri-continental Conference. Certainly the CIA, upon condemning him to torture and death, had ample motive for rejoicing. Nevertheless, what a web it has woven! It is understood that certain capitalist elements resort to crime and that one inevitable dies. What is not understood is that they resort to bungling. But no one is deceived now if the blood of Ben Barka may be felt dripping over a Parisian setting with a Moroccan backdrop. Behind the present reorganization of the French security forces, it is evident that the CIA is now receiving the blows. Oh, the personnel, now dismissed and confused, irretrievably lost in the three French police forces, in French counterespionage, and in the Paris underworld! Oh, the underhanded diplomacy which creates a climate of rupture among nations because Washington can no longer scheme with honor and precision the assassination of a political adversary! Where will this all end?

Worst of all was the holding of the Tricontinental Conference. The CIA treated France as if it were Martinique and what for? Revolutionary forces from the three continents have met and Havana is the headquarters. A second meeting will probably take place in Cairo. The provisions of the barbaric kidnaping were not necessary for such a trip. At this moment, to top it all off, comes the inopportune request of Senator Eugene McCarthy. Does he expect that President Johnson will give to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee all the confidential information on the assassination of Ben Barka?

In future elections in Minnesotat the indiscreet Senator deserves to have John McCone as his opponent from the Republican Party.